

**From:** Nick K. Aghazarian  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 10:58pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Please reconsider the acceptance of the proposed judgement.

The states' solution, while not perfect, is much closer to a fair and effective solution. I do not feel that any particular piece of software from Microsoft should be singled out, with the possible exception of the Office file formats. If these formats were made public and made to stay that way, competing products could (and would) emerge, enabling the more widespread use of competing operating systems. Currently, businesses are forced into one of the two monopolies (Operating System or Office Suite) by the other. If you want to correspond with your customers, you must use MS Office to read the documents. In order to run MS Office, you must run MS Windows. This should not be allowed to continue. At the very minimum, the determination of who should and should not be granted access to the Windows APIs must not be left to the owner of those APIs. For the most benefit to the public, those APIs should be made public and alternative implementations encouraged.

Thank you,

Nick K. Aghazarian  
Windows Software Engineer  
Stockton, CA 95219